

American Government
Political Science 205 (Section 2)
Spring 2020

Dr. Hogan
e-mail: rhogan1@lsu.edu
Telephone: 578-217
Office Hours: Monday 9:00:00 a.m.
Stubbs Hall

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of American government and politics. The first part of the course examines the ideological, historical, socioeconomic, and constitutional contexts of politics in the United States. The second part explores components of the political process including interest groups, political parties, and elections. The third part focuses on the institutions of government (executive, legislative, and judicial branches) that create and implement policies. The vast majority of our focus will be on national politics, although at points we will cover some aspects of state and local governments as well.

LSU Integrative Learning Core

Integrated learning allows students to make simple connections among ideas and experiences and across disciplines and perspectives. The LSU Integrative Learning Core (ILC) curriculum is designed to develop student abilities to transfer their learning to new situations and demonstrate a sense of self as a learner. A fundamental goal of the ILC is to foster V W X G H Q practical and intellectual capacities associated with integrative learning in preparation for high competence and functionality in their postbaccalaureate careers. This course fulfills the BOR Area of Social/Behavioral Sciences and provides students with the ILC proficiency of Inquiry and Analysis.

Course Requirements

The course requirements include reading the text book, watching video presentations, reading the Power Point slides, practicing quizzes, writing reports, and taking three multiple-choice exams (the final is not cumulative). The course schedule for completing practice quizzes, writing assignments and exams is listed below as well as on the course Moodle page. This is an on-line course that moves very quickly with assignments due throughout the semester, so it is very important that you pay close attention to the course schedule and check the Moodle site regularly. I provide updates and reminders near the deadlines. Again, it is imperative that you check the Moodle site regularly.

Required Reading Materials

The text book for the course is listed below. The 11th edition is

Practice Quizzes

A practice quiz on Moodle has been design to accompany each chapter of the text. Each quiz contains approximately 10 multiplechoice questions on content covered in the text. While these quizzes are not comprehensive in their coverage, should help you assess your grasp of some key concepts and hopefully help you learn more of the material in preparation for the exams. NOTE: You may take each quiz as many times as you want to improve your score up until the time when the quiz is closed (note the times listed on the syllabus). Each quiz is worth 0.5 percent of your course grade (1 percent of your course grade). Note that the practice quizzes are due at 6:00 p.m. on the dates listed on the syllabus (Friday

Adding the Course Late

If you add the course after the first day of the semester, it is your responsibility to make up any work that you miss. Assignments that are past due must be completed within one week of your adding the course. If quizzes have closed submissions are no longer accepted through Moodle, you must contact me for instructions on how to complete this work. Requests made more than one week after adding the course are usually not granted.

Special Needs

For students who have special needs or who require accommodations through Disability Services, please advise me of your situation so arrangements can be made. If you are a student registered through Disabilities Services and you are not currently in my class, please email me to be appropriate. I will then post the code listed on the form to the course Moodle page to enable my teaching assistants and volunteers to contact you through Disabilities Services. If you are a student interested in my class, please email me to be appropriate.

Course Schedule

Please pay careful attention to the due dates for the various practice quizzes, assignments, and exams. Note that the

Week #6: February 16-22

Public Opinion

Make certain you take Exam #1 anytime from 6:00 p.m. on ~~Sunday~~ ~~February 16~~ through 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 18

Read ~~Government in America~~ Chapter 6.

Video Presentations: Chapter 6.

Practice Quiz: Chapter 6 to be completed ~~Friday~~ ~~February 2~~ at 6:00 p.m.

Work on Report #2 (due on ~~Wednesday~~ ~~February 26~~)

Week #7: February 23-29

Mass Media and Interest Groups

Submit Report #1 by ~~Wednesday~~ ~~February 26~~ at 6:00 p.m.

Read ~~Government in America~~ Chapters 7 and 10.

Video Presentations: Chapters 7 and 10.

Practice Quizzes: Chapters 7 and 10 to be completed ~~Tuesday~~ ~~February 28~~ at 6:00 p.m.

Week #8: March 1-7

Congress

Read ~~Government in America~~ Chapter 11.

Video Presentation Chapter 11.

Practice Quiz: Chapter 11 to be completed ~~Friday~~ ~~March 6~~ at 6:00 p.m.

Work on Report #3 (due on ~~Monday~~ ~~March 9~~).

Week #9: March 8-14

Political Parties and Elections

Submit Report #2 by ~~Monday~~ ~~March 9~~ at 6:00 p.m.

Read ~~Government in America~~ Chapters 8 and 9.

Video Presentations: Chapters 8 and 9.

Practice Quizzes: Chapters 8 and 9 to be completed ~~Friday~~ ~~March 13~~

